

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF BETHEL
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Seaside, California. Over the course of the last half century, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church has become a community pillar of the Monterey Peninsula. Service and love are the hallmarks of its congregants and leadership. I can say with unshakeable confidence that the people of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church will continue to be a beacon of service, compassion, and faith in God for another sixty years and beyond.

In 1954, several leaders from Seaside and surrounding communities came together to found a new church. They included Mrs. William Irving, Amy Robinson, Lenora Bean, members of the Felix family, the late Reverend G.E. Ellis, the late Reverend W.F. Bailey, and the Reverend J.W. Harris. The late Reverend G.E. Ellis offered prayer and the group selected the name for the new church that had been suggested the late Sister Edna Felix.

In April 1954, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church services commenced under the leadership of its first Pastor, the Reverend J.W. Harris, at its first Seaside location at 1251 Broadway. The late Reverend J.W. Paige then assumed helm of the Church and helped it grow its congregation and acquire property for a permanent location. Two additional pastors followed in quick succession. The Reverend A.E. Johnson and the Reverend Elroy Day each brought their own particular gift to the Church community, including helping the Church move to 390 Elm Avenue, Seaside, the location that it still calls home today.

In 1961, the Reverend H.H. Lusk, Sr. assumed the pastoral duties of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. The Church community was still small at that time, just 60 members. Under his spiritual and temporal leadership, the Bethel family found many new members. It quickly outgrew its facilities and in 1975, under Reverend Lusk's leadership, the old sanctuary was demolished and replaced with the current sanctuary and classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church is a great American story of a family of faith growing from humble beginnings to become a pillar of the community. I know I speak for the whole House in congratulating Reverend H.H. Lusk, Sr. and the whole Bethel Missionary Baptist Church family on 60 years of success and I look forward to many more.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SENIOR
COMPANION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this year, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Senior Companion Program. This important program pairs senior volunteers with frail seniors or disabled adults who are homebound. By providing companionship, taking care of routine chores and providing transportation to medical appointments or the grocery store, Senior Companions are often the only reason that frail seniors or disabled citizens are able to remain in their homes. The program helps over 60,000 Americans continue living on their own, which not only benefits the individuals but saves the federal government millions of dollars. Other Senior Companions provide assistance and friendship to seniors who would otherwise be isolated.

I was responsible for bringing the first Senior Companion program to my home state of Oregon back in 1977. After being elected to Congress in 1986, I kept up my commitment to Senior Companion and other Senior Corps programs like RSVP and the Foster Grandparent Program. These programs have improved the quality of life for the citizens of my district and across the country. By mobilizing seniors to volunteer their skills and experience, vital community needs are met at a lower cost and senior volunteers reap the mental and physical benefits of remaining active in their communities.

After 40 years of success, we need to maintain our commitment to our nation's seniors. I have built a bipartisan coalition and led the fight against misguided proposals to defund Senior Corps and dismantle the current structure of the program in this year's budget debates. We must continue to utilize the talents of seniors and work to improve and protect vital Senior Corps programs like the Senior Companion Program.

HONORING THE STORY INN OF
BROWN COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Hoosier innovation and small business entrepreneurship help drive the economic engine of the state. Indiana small businesses are a source of pride for towns and cities across the state for the distinctly local, high quality goods and services they provide. One such small business is the Story Inn of Brown County. Located at "one inconvenient location since 1851," the Story Inn is a snapshot of Indiana's frontier past and melds modern convenience with a rugged atmosphere.

The Story Inn is a staple in southern Indiana with a unique history. The village of Story, Indiana was established through a land grant from President Millard Fillmore to Dr. George Story in 1851. The village grew to support a sizeable population and embodied the small-town Hoosier experience. When the Great Depression crippled the nation, citizens of Story left in droves to search for economic opportunity elsewhere. The small Indiana town never fully regained its pre-depression population, but the lack of development and construction after the economic collapse was a benefit in disguise. Story remained a vintage tribute to Indiana's frontier past, relatively untouched by the modern era, complete with wooden cabins, cattle barns, and an old-fashioned general store.

The general store was converted to a bed and breakfast in the 1980s by aspiring entrepreneurs. In 1998 the town of Story was purchased by Richard R Hofstetter and Frank Mueller. It is still owned by Mr. Hofstetter and today, the bed and breakfast occupies the entire village. A peaceful getaway nestled in the rolling hills of Brown County Indiana, the Story Inn caters to those who wish to revel in breathtaking sights, enjoy culinary delights, or escape the bustle of city life. Guests can relax in a variety of cozy rooms that have elements of modernity but seamlessly blend into the lush forests that surround the Inn. Even Indianapolis radio personality Greg Garrison purchased a cabin that overlooks the town and is available to guests. "The Garrison" cabin is the epitome of Brown County style: the walls are paneled in pine and the balcony provides an expansive view of the Brown County wilderness.

Guests can enjoy authentic Hoosier cuisine at the Inn's restaurant which features delicacies like locally-raised pork and beef, garden-grown herbs, spices, and fresh local produce, all complimented by a crisp glass or two of fine wine. The Story Inn's commitment to elegant simplicity drives visitors from across the state to this quaint bed and breakfast.

The Story Inn of Brown County continues to offer excellent service with a local taste to any and all desiring a serene getaway. Whether one is embarking on a nature trail, wishing to sample local cuisine, yearning to enjoy the scenery, or just passing through for a visit, the Story Inn is an amazing getaway and a remarkable part of Indiana's history. I would like to thank the Story Inn for its cultural impact on the state, and most importantly, for continuing to exemplify the Hoosier spirit. I wish all involved—including the Blue Lady—continued success for many years to come!

HONORING RESACA MIDDLE
SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winners of the 2013-2014

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Verizon Innovative App Challenge, team “Hello Navi” from Resaca Middle School in Los Fresnos, Texas. I commend the team for their hard work and dedication to the competition. These students exemplify the ingenuity and creativity found amongst South Texas students.

The Verizon Innovative App Challenge encourages middle school and high school students to use knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects to develop an original mobile app concept to address a need in their school or community.

Los Fresnos students Cassandra Baquero, Grecia Cano, Caitlyn Gonzalez, Kayleen Gonzalez, Janessa Leija, Jacqueline Garcia Torres, along with their faculty advisor Maggie Bolado, pioneered an app to help the blind navigate any building, including Resaca Middle School.

Their exemplary leadership and creativity encourages other students to improve our world with technological developments. Projects such as this that increase student interest and knowledge in STEM subjects are extremely important to our region and our country given the high demand for STEM college graduates.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize these outstanding students for winning the 2013–2014 Verizon Innovative App Challenge and look forward to their future accomplishments.

HONORING GENERAL WILLIAM M.
FRASER III

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to pay tribute to an exceptional Air Force leader, General William M. Fraser III, Commander, United States Transportation Command.

General Fraser is retiring after honorably serving this great nation with an incredibly distinguished 40-year career. General Fraser graduated from the Texas A&M University ROTC program in 1974. As a command pilot with more than 4,300 flying hours, General Fraser has held command and staff positions at the squadron, group, wing, major command, and Department of Defense levels and is considered one of the finest strategic logistics experts in the nation.

USTRANSCOM serves as the key logistics synchronizer for the Department of Defense. It provides global mobility for rapidly projecting national power and influence, anywhere, anytime. Whether sustaining our combat troops in remote parts of Afghanistan, ensuring critical cargo moves through ports in the South Pacific, or re-supplying our forces at the South Pole, General Fraser and his command have shown the world why we truly are an exceptional nation. No other nation can project power globally or sustain its forces in every far corner of the globe as we can, and we have achieved this ability largely through General Fraser's leadership and the efforts of his command.

Equally important, General Fraser cultivated trust with our allies and forged bonds that will

endure for many years. These relationships are reaping diplomatic, economic, and geopolitical benefits that contributing directly to regional security and stability and enabling our military to remain effective and efficient as we downsize and rebalance our forces.

General Fraser will tell you that his accomplishments were due to the hard work from the men and women of USTRANSCOM, but we know they were highly inspired by his leadership. We, in Congress, will miss his “Giddy Up” and “Aggie” persona and his proactive approach to keep us informed and to help us understand the impact of our work. But most of all, we will be forever grateful for General Fraser's unwavering support to our men and women in the Armed Forces, their dependents, and our entire nation.

Mr. President, while we recognize General Fraser for his 40 years of service, I also wish to recognize his wife, Beverly, and wish her the very best for the future, as well as their son Mac who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and their daughter, Ashlee, a military spouse of an Air Force officer. The Air Force will lose not one, but two, exceptional people upon General Fraser's retirement. Will and Bev, we wish you well in your future endeavors and pray that those who follow in your footsteps may continue the legacy of your unprecedented support for our great nation.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF PATRICK G. EMMANUEL OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the dedicated service and contributions of Patrick G. Emmanuel on the occasion of his retirement from Emmanuel Sheppard and Condon, one of the oldest law firms in Pensacola, Florida. For 67 years, Mr. Emmanuel proudly served the law profession and Northwest Florida with passion and integrity.

Prior to his career in law, Mr. Emmanuel served our Nation with honor and distinction as an officer in the United States Armed Forces. As a U.S. Army major, he earned the Bronze Star for his service as part of a tank battalion unit during World War II.

Upon graduating from the University of Florida College of Law in 1946, Mr. Emmanuel began his long and decorated legal career. His countless accolades attest to his expertise as an attorney. Mr. Emmanuel has been listed in each prestigious volume of *The Best Lawyers in America* from 1983 until present, was rated by Martindale Hubbell as an A–V attorney, and was the recipient of the Florida Bar Foundation's “2001 Medal of Honor Award.” He also served as a Fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, the American College of Trial Lawyers, and the American Bar Association. His vast list of memberships include: The Florida Bar, President, 1985–1986; Florida Bar Foundation, President, 1971–1973; Federal Judicial Nominating Commission of Florida, member and Chairman, 1974–1981; American Bar Association, Delegate, 1986–1989; Society of the Bar of the First Judicial Circuit, President, 1967;

and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Delegate, 1986–1990.

In addition to serving his profession, Mr. Emmanuel also maintained an honorable level of commitment to the Northwest Florida community. For 20 years, he was a pro bono attorney for the Northwest Florida Crippled Children's Home, as well as served on their Board of Directors. Mr. Emmanuel was Chairman of the Advisory Board of Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola for a decade, was appointed by the Governor to the Florida Children's Commission, chaired the Legal Division of the March of Dimes, and was a member of the James Baroco Foundation, Inc. His extensive pro bono work earned him the recognition of the Florida Bar and their President's Pro Bono Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire United States Congress, it is an honor to recognize the impressive career and achievements of one of Northwest Florida's most accomplished attorneys, Patrick G. Emmanuel. My wife Vicki and I congratulate Mr. Emmanuel, and we wish him and his family all the best for continued success.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4486) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my friend Mr. ROTHFUS's commonsense amendment to H.R. 4486. I also want to thank Chairman CULBERSON for his hard work on this legislation on behalf of our nation's veterans.

This amendment would prohibit senior VA officials from collecting bonuses. According to several reports by the Inspector General at the Department of Veterans Affairs, there have been a series of tragic—and preventable—deaths at VA facilities across the country. The preventable deaths in the VA healthcare system have been attributed to mismanagement, improper oversight, and failure to schedule timely medical appointments, among other errors.

Yet, despite the fact that more than 20 deaths have been attributed to mismanagement and lack of oversight, tens of thousands of dollars in bonuses were awarded to top level executives at the VA.

This practice has been evident at the Atlanta VA Medical Center, where Inspector General reports highlighted widespread mismanagement, delays in care, and a lack of uniform and acceptable policies. At least three deaths—and possibly a fourth—have been attributed to this lack of oversight, including a suicidal patient who was supposed to be closely monitored by staff in the hospital's mental health ward but died of a drug overdose after staff members lost track of him for

hours. Despite the fact that as many as four unexpected deaths were attributed to mismanagement and lack of oversight, thousands of dollars in bonuses were awarded to top level executives at the facility.

At the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in Augusta, thousands of patients sat on a backlogged list for endoscopy consultations after management failed to act in a timely manner to schedule appointments for check-ups in the gastrointestinal clinic. These delays contributed to the deaths of three patients, who died waiting for care in what could otherwise have been a treatable illness. No one has been fired at this facility—to the contrary, VA refuses to say whether or not officials there are eligible for bonuses despite the deaths. Simply put, our veterans deserve better.

It is past time that we stop rewarding people for simply showing up to work—bonuses should be the exception, not the norm. It should never be easier to get a bonus than to get fired, but that is what we have seen at the VA.

Top officials at facilities from Atlanta to Pittsburgh have received “performance awards,” even while veterans died. Veterans deserve to know that in return for serving their country, they will not be endangered in the very place they go to seek care. They deserve the peace of mind that would come from knowing that those responsible for the tragic deaths received more than a slap on the wrist one day and a bonus the next. Our veterans deserve to know that deaths in the system are taken seriously and met with consequences. It is incomprehensible that management officials could simultaneously be complicit in mismanagement that led to a preventable death and also rewarded with a hefty bonus.

Furthermore, at a time when so many of our soldiers are returning from war, and in light of the deaths in Georgia and across the country, I believe the VA should prioritize veterans’ health and well-being above all else.

Mr. Chair, I believe we should reward our veterans with quality care and services in exchange for their commitment to our country and our freedoms. Money spent on executive bonuses would be better spent on ensuring our nation’s men and women in uniform receive the best possible care when they come home.

I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing support for our nation’s veterans by supporting this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
SENATOR MARGARET CRAVEN

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Maine State Senator Margaret Craven.

A native of Galway, Ireland, Senator Craven immigrated to Massachusetts at the age of 17 and later moved to Maine where she adopted Lewiston as her home city. Senator Craven was first elected to the Maine House of Representatives in 2002 and later to the Maine Senate in 2008.

Senator Craven currently serves as Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and as a member of the Government Oversight Committee, and has previously served on the Appropriations Committee.

During her time in the Maine Legislature, Senator Craven has fought tirelessly on behalf of Maine’s most vulnerable citizens, including veterans, the elderly, the disabled, women and children. Among her most significant accomplishments is her work on the Commission to Study Long-Term Care Facilities, which provided recommendations for addressing long-term care challenges in Maine.

In addition to her service in the Maine Legislature, Senator Craven has served her community through other means as a hospice volunteer and board member for several organizations, including Lewiston Public Library, Healthy Androscoggin, and Community Concepts.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Maine State Senator Margaret Craven for her service to the state of Maine and in wishing her the best of luck in future endeavors.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE- LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA- TIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4486) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak on H.R. 4486, MILCON-VA Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2015.

The bill provides a total of \$165 billion in FY 2015 to fund military construction projects and programs of the Veterans Affairs Department—\$7 billion (4 percent) more than current funding.

This total includes \$93.5 billion in mandatory spending (all for VA benefits) and \$71.5 billion in discretionary funding.

Sequestration has caused significant problems for the VA in meeting the needs of our nation’s veterans.

Unfortunately, H.R. 4486, does not provide the President’s budget request for Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) medical care and includes unnecessary restrictions that could have negative consequences for benefits to our veterans.

I am disappointed with the funding level for VA Medical Care, which is \$368 million below the President’s request.

This funding level could delay the timely delivery of health care services to veterans and impede the Administration’s efforts to end veterans’ homelessness in 2015.

I hold our men and women of the armed services in the highest regard. I have fought for them to receive pay raises, affordable and safe housing, family support services, and the best possible medical care.

The Dr. Michael DeBakey VA Medical Center is in my District, and I am proud to say that

Harris County is home to 187,717 veterans and Texas is called home by more than 1,618,413 veterans.

Our veterans never fail to respond to the call to serve their country. That is why we cannot and must not fail to serve them. And that begins by eliminating the back log. Veterans should not have to wait months to receive the care they need.

We must continue to fund programs to end veteran homelessness and increase benefits for veterans to assure they have access to healthcare, education and good paying jobs.

My support of veterans has been consistent and strong over the time I have served in the House of Representatives. I know firsthand how painful it is for Veterans to seek assistance for medical care—especially PTSD or Traumatic Brain injuries.

The VA has made important progress on the disability claims backlog which was at 900,000 last year, but the agency despite sequestration has made progress in reducing.

I will not be satisfied until the VA disability claims backlog has been eliminated.

VA funding should not be reduced from the amount requested by the Administration especially in light of the continuing backlog in disability claims.

Further, the bill provides \$50 million below the request for Information Technology operations and maintenance programs, which may result in delayed technology infrastructure improvements that ensure continuity of operations for services that support all of VA’s services and benefit delivery.

I appreciate the funding level provided for electronic health record interoperability and VistA Evolution, but I object to restriction on obligations for VistA modernization efforts.

Interoperability between the DOD and VA recordkeeping systems could significantly reduce the number of Veteran disability claims that are waiting processing.

Interoperability can also lead to significant cost savings by reducing inefficiencies that are created when the capacity for computing systems to automate benefits management and track claim submissions are not available.

Furthermore, interoperability among systems that are key to our men and women in uniform transitioning to civilian life makes sense for them and their families.

The Administration is committed to achieving seamless data integration and interoperability between the Department of Defense, VA, and also with private healthcare providers.

Meeting the challenge of interoperability must be addressed to make sure that Veterans receive the necessary and appropriate care in a timely manner.

The level of discretionary funding for FY 2015, which includes \$55.6 billion in advance funding from prior-year appropriations, is \$1.8 billion (2 percent) less than current comparable funding and \$398 million less than requested.

I do thank the Appropriations Committee for its decision to provide \$58.7 billion in advance FY 2016 funding for VA medical programs.

The measure boosts discretionary spending for the VA, providing \$64.7 billion for FY 2015, \$1.5 billion (2 percent) more than the comparable current level, while cutting military construction by \$3.3 billion (33 percent) to \$6.6 billion, equal to the administration’s request.

The administration, given current budget caps on defense and nondefense spending,

elected to propose reductions in military construction in order to preserve funding for defense readiness accounts in the Defense appropriations bill.

With defense and non-defense spending caps in place for FY 2015, House and Senate appropriators expect to avoid the gridlock on spending bills that occurred last year.

Mr. Chair, it is my hope that my colleagues in the majority will place the best interest of the American people first during the deliberations on the budget to ensure that Federal government nor the American people have to endure another shutdown.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, millions of Americans at home and around the world will gather together and pray for our nation in observance of the National Day of Prayer. More than 30,000 services will take place on the steps of county courthouses, in conference rooms of small businesses, and in church sanctuaries.

Since the first call to prayer by the Continental Congress in 1775, prayer has played a significant role in our history. Our forefathers founded this great nation on Christian principles. They believed that every American should be able to practice his or her faith freely and pray for wisdom and guidance for our country and its leaders.

Throughout our nation's challenges and achievements, the American people have united around prayer. Since President Harry Truman signed a Congressional resolution in 1952, we have come together on an annual basis to give thanks and ask God to bless our nation and the American people. I encourage every American to take time today and ask the Lord to guide our nation forward.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF MILTON CITY COUNCILMAN RALPH "CLAYTON" WHITE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and dedicated service of Northwest Florida's beloved Milton City Councilman Clayton White. Councilman White was a veteran, successful business owner, and committed public servant. The entire Northwest Florida community mourns the loss of a great man.

Councilman White was a native of Spencer County, Indiana, who first came to Milton, Florida, in 1951 during his service in the United States Navy. Like so many who come to Northwest Florida through military service, Councilman White was immediately struck by the Gulf Coast's natural beauty and the friend-

ly nature of its residents and decided to remain in the area after completing his service. Councilman White and his wife Betty settled in Milton, where they opened a local appliance store, Tops TV and Appliance in 1957, which remains in business today and is run by their son, Barry. Tops quickly became known in the area for its quality selection, customer friendly service, and the store's wall of televisions, which Councilman White left on at night for the public to watch.

Councilman White also became involved in Northwest Florida's civic society and politics. He served on the Santa Rosa Elections Commission, as well as the Navarre Beach Board, before being appointed to a seat on the Milton City Council in 1979, which he held until 1994. In 2000, Councilman White decided to rejoin the council and was elected by the people of Milton to the council, where he continued to serve the community until his recent passing. Councilman White was known as an outstanding councilman with an assiduous work ethic and natural leadership abilities. Councilman White was also a long-time member of the local Kiwanis club, and he served on the Santa Rosa Tourist Development Council.

In addition to his business success and political service, Councilman White was also a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather and a member of First United Methodist Church of Milton. Councilman White was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Betty, who passed away last December. To some Councilman White will be remembered as a dedicated public servant and to others as a successful businessman. To his family and friends, he will always be remembered as family man guided by his faith.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to recognize the life and dedicated service of Councilman Clayton White. My wife Vicki and I extend our prayers and sincere condolences his sons, Scott, Barry, and Brian; grandchildren, Randall, Emily, Clay, Bailey, Brennan, Brady and Raina; great-grandson Dylan; and the entire White Family.

HONORING ALYSSA KNOBEL ON RECEIVING THE DIRECTOR FOR LIFE AWARD AND RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE JEWISH COUNCIL FOR YOUTH SERVICES

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a dedicated community servant and an outstanding community organization in the suburban Chicago district I represent. The Jewish Council for Youth Services (JCYS) will present Alyssa Knobel with the Director for Life Award at its 2014 Annual Gala.

Both Alyssa and JCYS embody a commitment to service and a dedication to enriching the lives of children that strengthens our community and lays a foundation for the future success of the next generation.

In the time I have known Alyssa, I have consistently been impressed with her energy, her enthusiasm and her passion for helping others. Her many activities are as diverse as

they are inspirational, and her work with JCYS, in many roles, has helped boost the confidence and expand the imaginations of countless children.

JCYS is a tremendous organization that understands the fundamental principle that our generation's success will best be measured by the quality of opportunities we provide the next generation. Its steadfast commitment to educational, recreational and leadership development and activities offers many extraordinary opportunities for kids throughout our community.

I also would like to take this opportunity to welcome John Thomason as the new Executive Director of JCYS, and wish him only great success in his new role.

With people like Alyssa and John leading the way, I know JCYS will achieve great new heights and will continue its work inspiring and empowering generations of children for years to come.

STORM DAMAGE IN ARKANSAS, MISSISSIPPI, OKLAHOMA, KANSAS, TENNESSEE, AND ALABAMA

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to be joined here by my colleagues from Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Kansas, Tennessee, Alabama and the states that have been impacted by the devastating storms that occurred earlier this week. While we had hoped that the entire Mississippi and Arkansas delegations could join us, Representatives GREGG HARPER and ALAN NUNNELEE from Mississippi, and Representative TIM GRIFFIN from Arkansas, are back home today coordinating with the federal, state and local officials who are organizing disaster assistance efforts. Tomorrow Representative GRIFFIN will be touring the devastation in Arkansas' second district with Secretary Johnson from the Department of Homeland Security.

All these delegations have spent hours keeping close contact with one another and with officials in Arkansas, in particular regarding the tornado that ripped through Vilonia, Mayflower, El Paso and Perrin, leaving a path of destruction in central Arkansas and the same is true for the other affected states. The destruction we've witnessed is heartbreaking and our prayers go out to those affected by all these devastating storms, especially those who lost loved ones. All of us would like to thank the first responders, volunteers and neighboring communities for all their assistance, donations, prayers and tireless efforts during this difficult time. Their hard work and dedication has saved countless lives. We also urge those who can to continue to help in any way they can to assist in the recovery and rebuilding of neighborhoods and communities that were impacted by these storms.

We also honor and remember those we lost. Representative GRIFFIN asked that I share a story of one of his constituents, U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Daniel Wassarn, who served as load master instructor with the 138th airlift wing at the Little Rock Air Force Base. The master sergeant lived in Vilonia, Arkansas with his wife, Suzanne, and his two young daughters. According to reports, Master Sergeant

Wassam sacrificed his own life to shield his 5-year-old daughter from falling debris. His example of selflessness and bravery during this disaster is one all Americans and Arkansans can admire.

I now ask for a moment of silent prayer to honor all the victims of those recent tragic events.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 180, I was predisposed at this time. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING CHILDHOOD APRAXIA DAY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, today marks the second annual Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day, during which we will raise national awareness about Childhood Apraxia of Speech, a particularly difficult, persistent, and severe speech and communication disorder in youngsters.

Today I want to recognize the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (CASANA), whose mission is to strengthen the support systems in the lives of children with apraxia. CASANA offers information and support related to CAS on its website, www.apraxiakids.org.

Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) causes children to have extreme difficulty planning and producing the precise, highly refined and specific series of movements of the tongue, lips, jaw, and palate that are necessary for the production of proper speech. It is among the most severe of speech and communication problems in children.

While the act of learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, those with apraxia endure an incredible and lengthy struggle. Although not life threatening it is life altering as families are left to cope with the emotional, physical, and financial challenges of having a child diagnosed with CAS. Additionally, without appropriate intervention, children with CAS are at high risk for secondary impacts in literacy and other school-related skills.

We encourage states, insurance providers, and schools to recognize the critical need to provide adequate speech therapy and other services so that the impact of this disorder can be minimized and so that affected children can grow into productive, contributing adult citizens.

Every child should be afforded their best opportunity to develop speech. With early intervention and appropriate therapy, most children with CAS will learn to communicate with their very own voices. These children, as well as their families, deserve our highest respect for their effort, determination and resilience in the face of such obstacles.

Let's use Childhood Apraxia Day to raise awareness about CAS and support the goals of Better Hearing and Speech Month.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 180, I was not able to get to D.C. by the time votes were called due to a personal conflict. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING RONDOUT SCHOOL DISTRICT 72 ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rondout Elementary School in the suburban Chicago district I represent as it celebrates its sesquicentennial. For 150 years, Rondout School has educated children with a commitment to the Rondout Way: Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Kindness.

Honoring these principles, Rondout School strives to focus its "collective professional expertise to deliver the highest quality instruction to our students and to measure their academic and social learning . . . one student at a time."

This is the Rondout School mission, and it is this mission that the talented, dedicated teachers, employees and administrators of District 72 carry out.

Good education is the foundation of all of our future success in the 21st Century, and all kids, regardless of zip code, deserve the opportunity to pursue an excellent education.

Outstanding schools like Rondout Elementary exemplify the character and vision that our educational system needs.

Whether it is in the classroom, during the summer, through social and emotional learning or at one of Rondout's extracurricular activities, students are engaged, stimulated and challenged in rewarding and enriching ways.

I am proud of Rondout Elementary School's commitment to excellence, and I am so pleased to congratulate Rondout School District 72 on 150 great years.

CELEBRATING DOROTHY "DOT" WIEKAMP'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Mrs. Dorothy "Dot" Wiekamp, who reached the milestone of her 100th birthday on March 15, 2014. Mrs. Wiekamp is a truly remarkable woman who is known in our community as an outstanding volunteer, community leader, philanthropist, mother, and grandmother.

Dot met her late husband Darwin at Mishawaka High School and the two married in 1936, forming what many have called "the perfect team." Together the Wiekamps began a family, built a business, and created a legacy in our local community.

In 1945, the Wiekamps founded the Owners Discount Corporation in Elkhart, Indiana. The business serviced customers who were overlooked by other banks, specializing in small loans for cars and new businesses. After purchasing the West End State Bank of Mishawaka in 1966, Owners Discount continued to grow, changing its name several times, until finally becoming National City Bank.

The Wiekamp's business success gave way to their philanthropic efforts. The couple played an instrumental role in the building of Memorial Children's Hospital in South Bend and also generously gave their time and money to the construction of the Schwartz Wiekamp Medical Center in Mishawaka. These efforts continue to play a key role in ensuring that local children have access to quality healthcare.

In regards to higher education, the Wiekamps have contributed to numerous institutions and scholarships. The couple helped fund the main classroom building, Wiekamp Hall, at Indiana University—South Bend. They built the Wiekamp Athletic Facility at Bethel College and the Dorothy Wiekamp Demonstration Kitchen at Ivy Tech Community College. In addition, the couple provided funding for the Schwartz Tennis Center at Purdue University.

Mrs. Wiekamp was also instrumental in the construction of a new auditorium at the Northern Indiana Center for History, as well as the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

Throughout her life, Dot has been involved in numerous community organizations. She served on the board of trustees for the Northern Indiana Historical Society, as president of the Mishawaka Visiting Nurses Association, and is a founding member of the Mishawaka YMCA.

From philanthropic support to countless charities and educational institutions to leadership on the boards of our community's most important organizations, the Wiekamps have left a legacy in our local community. I am forever grateful for their service and dedication.

It is a privilege to recognize Dot Wiekamp, a woman whose admirable service and commitment to the local community is truly inspirational. On behalf of Indiana's Second District, I wish her a happy 100th birthday and many more to come.

WORKER'S MEMORIAL DAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering the workers who have lost their lives on the job. It is an honor to join The Builders' Association and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) today in recognizing these men and women, alongside their colleagues and families.

At the turn of the 20th century, it is estimated that more than 100 American workers died on the job every day, with few laws in

place to protect them. Today, over 4,000 workers are killed on the job annually, and 3.3 million suffer a serious injury, leaving much work to be done to provide all workers a safe work environment.

In an effort to address this challenge, trade unions and workplace health and safety organizations world-wide have concentrated on the issue of workers' health and safety on April 28th of each year. Helping lead the charge is OSHA, who has worked to reduce workplace injuries and death for over forty years. In 2001, OSHA and The Builders' Association, through the Build Safe Partnership Program, developed cooperative partnerships designed to protect and promote the safety and health of construction workers in the Midwest. I would like to personally thank The Builders' Association/Kansas City Chapter, AGC and the Region 7 OSHA office for your continued efforts to keep worker safety a priority.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing the local workers who lost their lives. We must never forget them, and we must respect their memory by continuing to work to improve standards for workplace health and safety.

RECOGNIZING THREE ILLINOISANS TRAGICALLY KILLED IN AF- GHANISTAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sorrow at the deaths of three Illinoisans, killed in an attack in Kabul, Afghanistan last week. The three—John Gabel, Gary Gabel, and Dr. Jerry Umanos—were shot at CURE International's Hospital, which provides critical medical care to the people of Afghanistan.

John Gabel, a visiting lecturer at Kabul University's information technology department, was shot along with his father, Gary Gabel. Both were from Palatine, Illinois and members of the Orchard Evangelical Church in Arlington Heights. Pastor Colin Smith of the church described John as a "computer genius with a perfect mind" who was living out his faith through his service in Afghanistan. Amy Dillman, who worked with John while he was at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, said, "I think John just had a calling and he could see where the work he was good at—the programming and the information technology—could be useful and of service to other areas and other parts of the world that really needed that infrastructure."

Like his son, Gary Gabel was an active member of his church, working with youth groups and leadership teams. His wife, Teresa, was wounded in the attack but is recovering.

Dr. Jerry Umanos, a pediatrician who had practiced at the Lawndale Christian Health Center in Chicago, was serving at CURE's Hospital. Dr. Umanos was dedicated to providing essential medical care to Afghan children. According to his colleague Dr. Art Jones, "... you can't count the number of children that Jerry's impacted, the lives he's saved on his own, and with the doctors he trained. That's who he was. He was driven by the kids."

As we mourn the loss of John Gabel, Gary Gabel and Jerry Umanos, we also reflect on their dedication to working to improve the lives of others. I want to send my condolences to their families and friends.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE LATINO CHILDREN AND FAMIL- LIES COUNCIL

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous work of the Latino Children and Families Council and their programs for the Latino community in Wisconsin's Second District.

The Latino Children and Families Council hosts El Día de los Niños, an annual event in Madison, Wisconsin for Latino children and their families. This event includes music, food and plenty of games and educational activities for youth to enjoy. Also featured are opportunities for parents to receive information about childcare, parenting and the resources available to them in our community. The day culminates with a parade of Latin American Nations which allows the children to showcase their talents and celebrate their heritage.

Through education and advocacy, the Council continually promotes the success and well-being of Latino children and families. The Council promotes strong partnerships between community organizations and works to ensure our schools provide quality education that is inclusive of all students and the unique backgrounds from which they come and the diverse languages that they speak. The Council also provides leadership, giving a strong voice to the concerns of the Latino community.

I am proud to celebrate Saturday, May 3, 2014 as "El Día de los Niños." I thank the Latino Children and Families Council for their efforts to engage with and support the Latino community in Madison. This recognition is a most fitting honor of the important work that they do, not just today but throughout the year.

TO RECOGNIZE CENTRAL BUCKS SOUTH'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 2013/2014 Central Bucks South High School ice hockey team who won the Pennsylvania double-A High School Ice Hockey Championship on March 22nd on the campus of Penn State University.

After wrapping up their regular season with a record of 14–3–1, the Titans entered the 2014 Flyers Cup tournament as the second seed. After emerging as the champions from the eastern side of the state, they'd go on to beat western Pennsylvania's Bishop Canevin High School by a score of 5–2 for the state title.

The players, coaches and managers involved with this year's team should be ex-

tremely proud—not only of their accomplishment on the ice, but also of the pride they've brought to their school and area.

Legendary Philadelphia Flyers coach Fred Shero once said, "Success is not the result of spontaneous combustion. You must first set yourself on fire."

Hockey, like life, requires hard work and dedication in order to succeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 187 on Final Passage of H.R. 4486, the Fiscal Year 2015 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Monday, April 28, 2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 178, and "yea" on rollcall vote 179.

I was also absent for the following votes on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 and May 1, 2014 to participate in immigration events. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 184, "yea" on rollcall vote 185, "yea" on rollcall vote 186, and "yea" on rollcall vote 187 in support of final passage of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

On May 1, 2014, I would like the record to show that had I been present, I would have voted, "nay" on rollcall vote 188, "nay" on rollcall vote 189, "nay" on rollcall vote 190, "nay" on rollcall vote 191, and "yea" on rollcall vote 192. Finally, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 193 in support of final passage of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act.

HONORING BROOKE JACKSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brooke Jackson. Brooke is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Venturing Crew 2883, and earning a most prestigious recognition, the Venturing Silver Award.

Brooke has been very active with her troop, participating in many activities. Over the years Brooke has been involved with scouting, she

has not only earned numerous awards, but also the respect of her family, peers, and community. The Venturing Silver Award is the equivalent of obtaining an Eagle Scout and recognizes the high level of achievement Brooke has accomplished through the Venturing program.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brooke Jackson for her accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Silver Award.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Older Americans Month. Each May, we celebrate the contributions and sacrifices that the older members of our communities have made to our nation.

The theme for this year's Older Americans Month is "Safe Today, Healthy Tomorrow." We must encourage older adults to protect themselves from injury and remain active. Unfortunately, unintended injuries to our population of older Americans result in 6 million medically treated injuries and more than 30,000 deaths each year.

We must emphasize safety in public and private settings. Falls are a leading cause of injury and subsequent hospitalization for older Americans. In order to keep the older population in our country contributing to society, we must ensure their health and safety.

Older Americans Month lets us celebrate the achievements of our parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors. Seniors across the country deserve our recognition because they have built our strong foundation.

Please join me in celebrating Older Americans Month during May. Our seniors, a continuously growing number of Americans, deserve our recognition and our care.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 181, I was predisposed at this time.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 182, I was unable to return in time for votes due to a personal conflict.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE SERVICE OF REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL CAREY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Representative Michael Carey.

A native of Leeds, Maine and graduate of Dartmouth College, Michael Carey has served the State of Maine through four terms in the Maine House of Representatives as well as through his membership on the board of several community organizations and local businesses.

Representative Carey currently serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and as Chair of the House Committee on Elections. He has also served on the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, Transportation Committee, as well as the special committees on Regulatory Fairness and Reform and Maine's Energy Future during his time in the Maine Legislature.

Representative Carey's long list of legislative achievements includes playing an instrumental role in the development and passage of the state's biennial and supplemental budgets. He has also sponsored successful legislation to strengthen penalties for violations of election laws, improve the Freedom of Access Act, preserve Code Enforcement Officer Training and Certification, improve lobbyist disclosure policies, help non-profit organizations take part in the legislative process and assist local towns in providing tax relief to residents.

In addition to his legislative accomplishments, Representative Carey has served Maine through his membership on the board of several local organizations and businesses, including Community Concepts, AVESTA Housing and Androscoggin County Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Representative Michael Carey for his service to the state of Maine and in wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ALEXANDER MEYER BLACKBURN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Meyer Blackburn. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1393, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alexander has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alexander built a fire pit for Heartland Presbyterian

Center, a conference and retreat facility in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Meyer Blackburn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING 16 PALM BEACH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO PLAN TO ENLIST INTO THE MILITARY AFTER GRADUATION

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of 16 high school seniors from Palm Beach County who plan to enlist into the military after graduation this spring. Their maturity and courage are a testament to their dedication to our country, and they rightfully deserve our recognition and admiration.

I am proud to represent a district that is home to such a large number of men and women in the military, veterans, and their families. I feel tremendous gratitude to those who fought in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and to a new generation of heroes from the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan. My father, Bernard Deutch, volunteered to fight in World War II as a teenager where he earned a Purple Heart at the Battle of the Bulge. It was his example of service to our nation that motivated me to serve in Congress.

Congratulations to Christopher Barnikel, Arturo Ipina Jr., Jose Pascual Tomas, Justin Grad, Adam Pendleton, Jason Marlin, Charles Green, Alexander Costello, Marc Velazquez, Sumer Boardman, Mauricio Alvarez, Trystan Anderson, Aprilday Lytal, Samuel Steinhouse, Elyzae Reina, and Shereek Powell for their service.

HONORING MICHAEL KAISER, PRESIDENT OF THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, for nearly 15 years, Michael Kaiser has served excellently as President of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in our nation's capital. Throughout his distinguished career, Michael's talents and devotion to the arts have helped establish the Kennedy Center as one of the nation's premiere performance venues, a destination for artistic talent and a bustling hub of creativity. This weekend, the Kennedy Center community will gather to pay tribute to Michael's outstanding leadership as he steps down from his post later this year.

Since he took the helm in 2001, Michael Kaiser has enthusiastically and passionately embraced the mission of the Kennedy Center, always maintaining, as President Kennedy once said, that "The life of the arts . . . is close to the center of a nation's purpose—and is a test to the quality of a nation's civilization."

Under Michael's leadership, the Kennedy Center has featured voices and visions across the disciplines of the performing arts. He has produced wonderful theatrical works that received national acclaim—some of which have appeared on Broadway. He has presented multiple international festivals that showcased arts from around the world and established the Center as a model for cultural diplomacy. He has hosted every major national and international dance company. Most recently, he oversaw the Center's merger with the Washington National Opera, ensuring that our nation's capital will continue to experience the wonders of the opera.

Michael has embarked on an extensive effort to train arts managers across the country and throughout the world. Acknowledging that great art demands great managers, he conceived a program to bring the next generation of arts leaders together to learn best practices for directing cultural institutions, small and large. He launched a program called "Arts in Crisis" to provide free consultation to arts managers across the country. As part of this effort, he traveled to all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia to lead arts management symposia.

Michael has a unique vision that advances both artistic expression and cultural diplomacy—the power of the arts to connect peoples, communities, and nations. He has dedicated himself to enriching artistic expression and disseminating it in a way that builds bridges across borders and fosters international good will.

Michael's intellect, enthusiasm, and passion helped the Kennedy Center grow and thrive. We thank him for his years of leadership and wish him the best in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 186, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN MEMORY OF HARRY HARMAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Midlands of South Carolina recognized a life of service to fellow citizens by Lexington County Coroner Harry O. Harman who was one of South Carolina's first Republican county public officials of the Twentieth Century.

The following obituary was published April 24, 2014, in the Lexington County Chronicle & The Dispatch News:

HARRY O. HARMAN, JR.

Funeral services for Harry O. Harman, Jr., 79, will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church with Rev. Dr. Patrick W. Riddle and Rev. Dr. Dennis R. Bolton officiating. A reception will be held in the social

hall immediately after the service. Private burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, at Caughman-Harman Funeral Home, Lexington Chapel. Honorary pallbearers are the staffs of Caughman-Harman Funeral Home, Lexington County Coroner's Office led by Chief Deputy Coroner Randy A. Martin, and Lexington Medical Center Pathology; the SC Funeral Directors' and SC Coroners' Associations; and Congressman Joe Wilson, Sheriff James R. Metts, Solicitor Donald V. Myers, Judge Knox McMahon, Jake Knotts, Mickey Lindler, and Lyman Whitehead.

Pallbearers are Josef E. Clark, Trevor P. Crocker, Alexander Harman, T. Brett Harman, George P.W. Harmon, Dr. R.B. Harmon II, Samuel H. Hendrix, Lester B. Hite, Joe Wayne Rauch, Walter "Sonny" Sanders, Franklin B. Waites, and Coroner Gary Watts. Mr. Harman passed away on Friday, April 18, 2014. A native of Lexington, SC, Mr. Harman was born on March 30, 1935, and was the son of the late Sarah Clark Harman and Dr. H. Odelle Harman. He was predeceased by brother, Arthur C. Harman.

Mr. Harman graduated from Lexington High School, attended Newberry College, and was a graduate of Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. In 1961 he started a successful business, Harman Funeral Home, which became Caughman-Harman Funeral Home in 1966 when he formed a partnership with the late Stephen Hampton Caughman. He spent more than 50 years counseling bereaved families.

Mr. Harman was first elected Coroner of Lexington County in 1976. He was instrumental in developing a countywide disaster plan and disaster-response team, 24-hour pathologist availability, and employing educated individuals to meet the demands of changing technology. He sought to establish strong working relationships with all law enforcement, EMS, fire services, physicians, pathologists, and nurses. He also helped obtain burial plots and grave markers to ensure dignified burials for indigent citizens of Lexington County.

Mr. Harman was a lifelong member of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church and longtime member of the Lexington County Chamber of Commerce, Lions' Club, Jaycees, and SC Coroners' and SC Law Enforcement Associations. He was a past member of the Lowman Home Board of Directors, as well as many other civic groups, and past president of the SC Funeral Directors' Association.

A man of many accomplishments, Mr. Harman was, most importantly, a servant. He took great pride and care in serving the people of his beloved Lexington County. With a strong sense of compassion and respect, he wanted to help families at times of crisis and sadness. This desire began with his work as a funeral director and continued with his service as Coroner. The people of Lexington County elected him as Coroner ten times, an honor he accepted with much gratitude and humility.

While Mr. Harman's service touched many lives, he was always, first of all, a dedicated son, brother, father, and grandfather who loved his family, especially his daughters and grandchildren, selflessly and unconditionally. His extraordinary sense of humor, unflinching empathy, understanding, and devotion will always be treasured and remembered by his family and friends. Mr. Harman is survived by his daughters, Sally H. Plowden (Russell) and Charlotte H. Stormer (Chris), both of Columbia; his sister, Elizabeth H. Caddell and brother Paul E. Harman (Gale) of Lexington; six grandchildren, Sarah Caroline Plowden, William Christian Stormer, Samuel Harman Stormer, Grace Zimmerman Plowden, Sarah McIver Stormer, and

Anne Brailsford Plowden; many nieces and nephews; his loyal business partner and devoted mother of his two daughters and grandmother of his six grandchildren, Daisy Wilson Harman; and his special friend, Sandra Rauch White.

The Family wishes to extend a special thank you to the staffs of Lexington Medical Center, LMC Extended Care, and DayBreak; Doctors Michael Roberts, Christopher Marshall, and Richard Murray; and dear friends Bernice Gibson and Lettie Winston.

Memorials may be made to St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 119 N. Church St., Lexington, SC 29072; Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, 3000 S. Beltline Blvd., Columbia, SC 29201; or a Hospice group of one's choice.

HONORING BRAEDYN HAUSDORF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Braedyn Hausdorf. Braedyn is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 174, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Braedyn has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Braedyn has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Braedyn has led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader and become a member of the Order of the Arrow. Braedyn has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Braedyn coordinated and constructed a quarter-mile walking trail within a park in Canton, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Braedyn Hausdorf for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY FLORES, LUPE F. FLORES AND OUR LADY OF LORETO CHAPEL

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Flores and Lupe F. Flores and their contribution to Our Lady of Loreto Chapel in Goliad, Texas.

The beautiful chapel has been in continuous use since the 1700s and is one of the oldest churches in Texas.

In 1946, Corpus Christi artist Antonio Garcia, who was known as the Michelangelo of South Texas, was commissioned to paint a fresco behind the chapel's altar. Mary Flores and Lupe F. Flores, both in high school at the time, posed for the artist during multiple sessions after school. Their likenesses were used to depict the annunciation scene from the Bible where the Angel Gabriel visits the Virgin Mary and explains that she will become the mother of Jesus.

The stunning fresco, which Mary Flores and Lupe Flores helped to create, is uniquely Texan and includes a cactus and rattlesnake in the background.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor Mary Flores, Lupe F. Flores and their contribution to Our Lady of Loreto Chapel. I appreciate you and the House of Representatives joining me in recognizing the beauty and history of Our Lady of Loreto Chapel and Goliad, Texas.

UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES
ENLISTEES FROM FLORIDA'S
22ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seventy-five high school seniors in Florida's 22nd District who have decided to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

Of these seventy-five, twenty-two have joined the Army; their names are Daryl Flowers, Stanly Ramirez, Jonathan Belman-Otero, Wilfredo Colon, Jeanette Cox, Dalenjie Jeanty, Cory Chobot, Kendall Gonsalves, Jamile Hill, Devon Petchner, Gage Morgan, Mario Valenzuela, Jr., Vanessa Sheika, Jackenson Toussaint, Jeffrey Edano, Krista Ramirez, Julianna Guerra, Caylah Murray, Kamyra Johnson, Daniel Castillo-Hernandez, Matthew Smith-Mullaly, Matthew Woods. Thirty-three have joined the Marines; their names are Kevin Cobty, Andres Cifuentes, Jimmy Octave, Frank Barker, Timothy Murray, Nicholas Nixon, Emilio Perez, Devonta Battles, Rock Joseph, Artem Solomakin, Arnulfo Vasquez, Gabriel Figueredo, Brian Sauls, Thales Rodrigues, Richard Lemus, Manuel Gonzalez, Bailey Ochoa, Collin Murphy, Julian Sosa, Leandra Sinclair, John Newkirk, Alexander Averhart, Bryant Mercely, Jace Bowes, Eric Morzella, Dylan Pierre Louis, Emmanuel Rivera, Argelis Hernandez, Jacob Quikkel, Victor Stremel, Christian Pontier, Jonathan Vallejo, Devon McCarthy, Jr. Three have joined the National Guard; their names are Jimmy Lopez, Shalena Higgins, Kenneth Talvo. Fifteen have joined the Navy; their names are Jason Bagnall, Bobby Thomas, Raymond Brooks, Alec Johnston, Max Joseph, Xavier Owens, Christian Peraza, Arian Pickering, Victoria Umpierrez, Christina Coder, Christopher Gibb, Jose Lopez, Charles Tookes, Maria Valdes, and Nehemie Jean-Charles. Two have joined the Air Force; their names are Gabrielle Etheradge and Aubrey Amoror.

It is in thanks to the dedication of patriots like these that we are able to meet here today, in the United States House of Representatives, and openly debate the best solutions to the diverse issues that confront our country. On behalf of myself and all of my constituents in Florida's Twenty-Second District, thank you for your service and best of luck as you pursue this challenging endeavor.

ON THE OCCASION OF COACH ALBERT FRACASSA'S RETIREMENT AS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH FROM BROTHER RICE HIGH SCHOOL IN BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Al Fracassa as his family and the Greater Detroit community celebrate his retirement as Head Coach of the Brother Rice Warriors football team in Birmingham, Michigan. Capping off a 57 year career in football coaching, Coach Fracassa leaves the field as the winningest high school football coach in the State of Michigan's history having compiled 430 victories.

Long before his days as coach, Fracassa played football in high school and college—where he earned All State honors at Detroit's Northeastern High School and later joined the Michigan State University Spartans. At Michigan State, he was part of the school's dominance in colligate football during the early 1950s. While playing with the Spartans, Coach Fracassa was part of a team that won the National Championship in 1952 and played in the Rose Bowl in 1954. During his senior year, Coach Fracassa was honored with the highly coveted Fred Danziger Award. Praised by his teammates for his contributions both on and off the field, they describe Coach Fracassa as a dedicated athlete whose leadership inspired the best in his teammates—qualities that would continue to inspire while he worked the sidelines as a coach.

After his graduation from Michigan State, Coach Fracassa joined the coaching staff at Royal Oak's Shrine High School and became head coach several years later. In 1969, he went on to become head coach at Brother Rice High School in Birmingham, where he has served for 45 years and built a dynasty of dominance in Michigan high school football.

In football, so many important metrics of performance are measured by statistics, numbers which tell an incredible story of success for the Warriors under the direction of Coach Fracassa. With nine Michigan High School Athletic Association Championships—including three in the last three years, 16 Catholic League Championships, four teams that have been ranked national by USA Today and 430 victories over his career, Coach Fracassa has built an incredible program at Brother Rice. He is the recipient of many awards throughout his career, including the 2013 Coach of the Year Award by USA Today.

However, statistics do not tell the entire story of Coach Fracassa's success—the inspiration he instills in his players through his leadership and dedication to overall well-being. A constant throughout his career, Coach Fracassa is praised by his players for his inventiveness in play calling, his support of their development both on and off the field, and his genuine love for the sport of football. And as a testament to the long-term impact of his coaching, many of his players have gone on to excel in college and the National Football League.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Coach Al Fracassa for the incredible impact he has made on the Greater Detroit community and the State of Michigan. For 57 years, he has demonstrated leadership and dedication that have truly inspired his players to reach for their maximum potential. Coach Fracassa leaves an incredible legacy at Brother Rice—45 years of success and hundreds of students who he has helped develop both in personal character and in skill on the football field. I know his leadership on the field will be greatly missed and I wish Coach Fracassa and his wife, Phyllis, the very best as they embark upon a new chapter in their lives.

CONGRATULATING WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY FOR BEING RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE 100 BEST CORPORATE CITIZENS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Weyerhaeuser Company on being recognized as one of best corporate citizens in the nation. Weyerhaeuser ranked sixth on Corporate Responsibility Magazine's 100 Best Corporate Citizens 2014 list.

Since 1957, Weyerhaeuser has been an important part of communities throughout eastern North Carolina. Weyerhaeuser employs 1,051 North Carolinians and helps sustain families and businesses in rural communities across the state. More than 545,000 acres of land in North Carolina is owned or leased by Weyerhaeuser. The company's Softwood Lumber Mill in Plymouth and the Carolina Timberlands and GHW Operations Center in Washington are essential economic drivers for North Carolina's First Congressional District.

North Carolinians benefit from Weyerhaeuser's presence in our state. The company is an important economic contributor through job creation and business development, but importantly serves as an environmental steward and engages in philanthropy throughout the state. Over the last six years Weyerhaeuser has donated more than \$2.5 million to philanthropic causes in North Carolina communities. Nationally, Weyerhaeuser and its employees have donated more than \$215 million since 1903 to support education and youth development, affordable housing and shelter, human services, civic and cultural growth, and environmental stewardship.

Corporate Responsibility Magazine's 100 Best Corporate Citizens 2014 list evaluates companies based on climate change, employee relations, environment, finance, governance, human rights, and philanthropy. I am proud to represent Weyerhaeuser and am grateful for their extraordinary efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the outstanding efforts of Weyerhaeuser employees in North Carolina and across the country.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4486, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4487, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the Rule for H.R. 4486, the "Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015," which supports our military and their families and provides the benefits and medical care that our veterans have earned for their service.

H.R. 4486 provides the facilities and infrastructure needed to house, train, and equip our military personnel to defend this Nation, both in the United States and abroad, provides the housing and military community infrastructure that supports a good quality of life for them and their families, and allows the military to maintain an efficient and effective base structure.

The bill also funds programs to ensure that all veterans receive the benefits and medical care that they have earned as a result of their sacrifices in the service to our Nation.

Just as our military pledges to leave no one behind on the battlefield, Democrats in Congress have pledged to leave no veteran behind when they come home.

The bill provides a total of \$165 billion in FY 2015 to fund military construction projects and programs of the Veterans Affairs Department, an increase of \$7 billion (4%) over current funding levels. This total includes \$93.5 billion in mandatory spending for VA benefits and \$71.5 billion in discretionary funding.

The bill provides a total of \$64.7 billion in discretionary funding for the VA in FY 2015, a 2% increase over current funding and I am pleased that it increases mandatory funding for veterans' compensation and benefits by almost 10 percent.

Mr. Speaker, although there is much in this bill that I support, I wish to note two major concerns.

First, I disagree with the funding level for VA Medical Care in the bill, which is \$368 million below the President's request and the amount I support. This underfunding for VA Medical Care could delay the timely delivery of health care services to veterans and impede our efforts to end veterans' homelessness in 2015.

Second, the bill provides \$50 million less than the President's request for Information Technology operations and maintenance programs. The result is likely to be a delay in making the necessary improvements to technology infrastructure that ensure continuity of operations for services that support all of VA's services and benefit delivery.

Third, I do not support section 411 of the bill, which would prohibit the use of funds to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States to house individuals held in the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. I do not support this rider because it unduly con-

strains the flexibility that the our Armed Forces and counterterrorism professionals need to best protect U.S. national security.

Mr. Speaker, the VA serves nearly 48.5 million people: 22 million veterans and 26.5 million family members of living veterans or survivors of deceased veterans, so in my remaining time let me highlight some of the positive aspects of the bill:

\$1.2 billion for family and military personnel housing—equal to the administration's request;

The bill contains an advance appropriation for FY 2016 of \$58.7 billion, continuing the trend started in the Democratic-led 111th Congress of providing advance appropriations to the VA for the medical services, medical support and compliance, and medical facilities accounts.

This is a significant benefit to the veterans served by the VA at the 152 hospitals, 107 domiciliary residential rehabilitation treatment programs, 133 nursing homes, 300 Vet Centers, 70 mobile Vet Centers and 821 outpatient clinics, which include independent, satellite, community-based and rural outreach clinics.

\$589 million is provided for medical, rehabilitative, health services and prosthetic research—\$3.3 million above current levels and recommends that a proportionate amount of funding for prosthetics should be focused on prosthetics for females, who outnumber male amputees by 3 percent.

In addition to veterans medical benefits, the bill provides \$93.7 billion, an increase of \$8.84 billion, in mandatory funding for other veterans benefits—primarily veterans compensation and pensions, and readjustment benefits.

\$78.7 billion for veterans service-connected compensation benefits and pensions, an increase of \$7.2 billion (10%) over current funding levels.

These funds are used for service-connected compensation payments to an estimated 4.6 million veterans, survivors and dependents and pension payments to 519,000 veterans and survivors.

\$14.8 billion for veterans readjustment benefits, an increase of \$1.6 billion (12%) over current funding levels. These funds include education and training assistance to veterans and service personnel; vocational rehabilitation; special housing and transportation grants to certain disabled veterans; and educational assistance to eligible dependents of deceased and seriously disabled veterans, as well as dependents of servicemembers who were captured or are missing in action.

This is not a perfect bill but this piece of legislation addresses the most critical needs of our service members, military families, and veterans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
EDELSTEIN FAMILY

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Edelstein family and their contributions to the Brownsville community.

In 1906, Lithuanian Immigrant Morris Edelstein opened Edelstein's Best Furniture

store in Brownsville, Texas. By the 1930s, Mr. Edelstein had expanded his furniture business to include 12 stores throughout the Rio Grande Valley. In the 1940s, Morris Edelstein's sons, Ruben and Ben, took over the family furniture business. Together, they operated the chain of stores for more than 60 years and would grow the company to employ 260 people.

Morris Edelstein taught his children the importance of giving back to the Brownsville community. Ruben started the first United Way in Brownsville, served as mayor of Brownsville, and was the first director of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board. Additionally, he worked with Washington policymakers to secure funds to build the Brownsville Community Health Center.

In 2008, the Edelstein family sold its 12 Edelstein's stores but retained two Designer's Showroom stores, managed by Ruben Edelstein's daughter, Julie Edelstein-Best. This summer, Ms. Edelstein-Best will be closing the two remaining stores due to changing market conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor the Edelstein family and their commitment to Brownsville for more than 100 years.

CONGRATULATING THE HONOREES
OF THE MAINE SPORTS HALL OF
FAME'S 39TH ANNUAL INDUC-
TION BANQUET AND SCHOLAR-
ATHLETE AWARDS CEREMONY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorees of the Maine Sports Hall of Fame's Annual Induction Banquet and Scholar-Athlete Awards Ceremony.

This Sunday, the Maine Sports Hall of Fame will honor Maine athletes and sports figures who have exemplified a tireless commitment to their sport and to their community. Recognition awards and scholarships also will be presented to five of Maine's outstanding high school scholar-athletes. Each of the honorees have distinguished themselves on and off the field and are most deserving of this recognition.

This year's inductees to the Maine Sports Hall of Fame are: Julia Faith Dawson Clukey, Augusta; Jack W. Cosgrove, Bangor; Joseph L. Ferris, Brewer; Edward J. Flaherty, Portland; William (Bill) Green, Cumberland; Eleanor D. Logan, Boothbay Harbor; George J. Mitchell, New York City; Steven M. Pound, Greenville; and Abigail L. (Abby) Spector, Waterville.

This year's scholar-athlete honorees are: Carsyn Koch, Washburn District High School; Ian Lee, Madawaska High School; Alexandra Logan, Cheverus High School, Portland; Mikayla Turner, Messalonskee High School, Oakland; and Rayne Whitten, Massabesic High School, Waterboro.

The President's Award is presented to "an individual who has bettered sports and athletics and has become a leader at state and national levels." This year's recipient is William E. Hagggett of West Bath.

Each of these honorees is among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and their incredible commitment to their

sport, to their communities, and to our state, Maine is a better place in which to live.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating each of the award recipients on their outstanding achievements and service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 183, I was predisposed at this time.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 184, I was unable to make votes due to a personal conflict.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODLAND PARK

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Borough of Woodland Park, located in Passaic County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

The Borough of Woodland Park was created on May 1, 1914. The area which now encompasses the Borough began as a section of the Township of Little Falls, called "West Park." In 1905, the residents of West Park, concerned that they were not being fairly represented within the township initiated a fight to create their own Borough.

On January 7, 1913, the organization proposed the establishment of the "Borough of West Paterson." The proposed name of the new town was chosen in recognition of its location next to the City of Paterson, America's first industrial center and the birthplace of the American silk industry.

Little more than a year later, on March 25, 1914, New Jersey State Senator Peter J. McGinnis' bill, "An Act to Incorporate the Borough of West Paterson," received final approval by Governor James F. Fielder. On May 1, 1914, a referendum was held, and the voters overwhelmingly approved the creation of the new Borough, by a vote of 194 to 20. Twenty four days later, the town elected its first Mayor, Councilmen, Tax Collector, Constables, and two Justices of the Peace.

In its early years, West Paterson's major economic activity was agriculture. The rich, verdant farm lands produced an abundance of dairy products, fruits, and vegetables. The

neighboring City of Paterson, which was home to numerous wealthy silk manufacturers, began to see many of its most prominent citizens move to West Paterson to take advantage of its bucolic, small town atmosphere.

The presence of the Passaic River, which is a major natural resource for the region, helped attract many hotels, ball fields, amusement parks, and a racetrack to its banks in West Paterson. At the time, one of the leading amusement parks of the town was Idlewood Park. Other amusement parks also located themselves on Garrett Mountain, on the east side of the Borough, where the Garret Mountain Reservation is today.

As the Borough grew, the population continuously rose. In 1920, the population was 1,858. By 1950, it had jumped to 3,931, and more than doubled over the following decade, to 7,602 by 1960. As of 2010, the Borough's population had grown to 11,819.

As the Borough grew, the township's necessary municipal services did as well. Many of these services were and are made possible due to residents volunteering to carry them out. Woodland Park has a long history of active volunteer commitment to the community, reflecting the value that its citizens place on their town and their desire to continue to make it a great place in which to live and work. Over the past several decades, many townhouse and condominium units were built to accommodate the influx of people wishing to make this desirable community their home.

In 2008, the Borough of West Paterson changed its name to the Borough of Woodland Park. Supporters had been attempting to change the town's name for 20 years, and were successful during the General Election of November 4, 2008. On December 17, 2008, the governing body approved Resolution R08-253, making the town's official name the Borough of Woodland Park, effective January 1, 2009.

Today, the Borough consists of a mixture of retail, office, residential, and industrial properties. A significant portion of the Borough consists of municipal parkland, county parks, and two reservoirs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Borough of Woodland Park as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

SANDY AND MARCIA COHEN

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sandy and Marcia Cohen, who are being honored at the 2014 Susquehanna Tzedakah Society Dinner for their selfless dedication to the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Jewish community.

Mr. and Mrs. Cohen, both Harrisburg natives, are well known throughout our community for their selfless devotion to Jewish philanthropies and activities. Mr. Cohen, CEO of Cohen Produce Marketing, and Mrs. Cohen, a pharmacist at Holy Spirit Hospital, each credit their parents for instilling a strong sense of devotion to helping the Jewish community in any way possible. In their many years of service, the Cohens have always accepted requests for their assistance and in doing so have set

a high standard of excellence for others to emulate. Not unmindful of providing for future generations, the Cohens made sure to encourage a strong dedication to tzedakah in their four children, no doubt ensuring their legacy will inspire and benefit many members of the community for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, tonight as the Harrisburg community honors the Cohens at the 2014 Susquehanna Tzedakah Society Dinner, I join in commending them for their outstanding commitment to bettering the Jewish community and thank them and their family for their selfless dedication.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHRYN STONER O'CONNOR

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathryn Stoner O'Connor and her commitment to historical preservation.

Mrs. O'Connor was born on February 11, 1883, on her family's ranch in Victoria County, Texas. In 1905, she married Thomas O'Connor, a prominent rancher in South Texas.

In 1963, Mrs. O'Connor donated approximately \$1 million to restore the Presidio La Bahia in Goliad, Texas. The Presidio, which lies along the San Antonio River, was constructed in 1749 by the Spanish army.

During the Texas Revolution, the fort came under siege by a group of Texans lead by Colonel James Fannin. Following the Battle of the Alamo, General Sam Houston ordered Colonel Fannin to abandon the fort. However, Fannin and the more than 300 soldiers under his control were met by the Mexican army and subsequently surrendered, believing they would not be harmed. Fannin and his men were imprisoned at La Bahia. On Palm Sunday, March 27, 1836, Colonel Fannin and more than 300 soldiers were executed in what has become known as the Goliad Massacre.

By the early 1900s, the fort had fallen into disrepair. Thanks to Mrs. O'Connor's generosity, the fort was rebuilt to its 1836 appearance based on archeological evidence. In 1967, Presidio La Bahia was designated a National Historic Landmark.

Today, thanks to Mrs. O'Connor's generous donation, Presidio La Bahia is one the best examples of a Spanish ecclesiastical building in North America and hosts an annual living history event, which includes battle reenactments.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to honor Mrs. O'Connor. I appreciate you joining me in recognizing Mrs. O'Connor's generosity, which preserved the Presidio La Bahia in Goliad, Texas for future generations.

IN HONOR OF VELVET ICE CREAM AND THE ENTIRE DAGER FAMILY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Velvet Ice Cream in Utica, Ohio upon its 100th anniversary.

In a quintessential American story, 15-year-old Joseph Dager came to America from Lebanon in 1903 without knowing a word of English. Eleven years later he started his ice cream business in the basement of a local confectionary. His hand-cranked ice cream batches set his family and Central Ohio on a path that would make Velvet Ice Cream and Central Ohio famous.

Although they no longer hand-crank ice cream in a basement, the company strives to maintain its connection to those by-gone years. In homage to Velvet's adherence to old time values and tradition, Velvet is now housed in a refurbished grist mill from the 1800s. The "Ye Olde Mill" now manufactures ice cream, plays host to thousands of visitors and marks the center of activity during each annual Utica Sertoma Ice Cream Festival.

Thousands stream into Utica each year for the festival. Having attended many myself, I know the joy locals and outsiders alike find in a bowl of good, old-fashioned ice cream. In a way, the festival commemorates the simple beginnings of a business started by an immigrant named Joseph Dager. Like so many other enterprises, Velvet Ice Cream started humbly but grew into a Central Ohio institution. America is richer for Velvet's founder's contributions to our country and Central Ohioans are grateful he chose to settle here.

As the fourth generation of the Dager family carries Joseph Dager's legacy into its 2nd century, Central Ohio proudly celebrates one man's vision, hard work and sweet legacy.

HONORING DANIEL PUGH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Pugh. Danny is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 177, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Danny has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Danny has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Danny has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Danny cleaned and cleared a city lot near the town square in Bowling Green, Missouri, that had been abandoned for a decade.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Pugh for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MICHAEL FERRITER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Mi-

chael Ferriter, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and Commanding General, Installation Management Command, for his distinguished service to the United States of America. Lieutenant General Ferriter will be retiring from the United States Army after nearly 35 years of service. He will be honored at a retirement ceremony on Friday, May 2, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at McGinnis-Wickham Hall at Fort Benning, Georgia.

LTG Ferriter graduated from The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina in May 1979, and was commissioned in the Infantry as a Second Lieutenant. After the Infantry Officer Basic Course, his first troop assignment was Platoon Leader, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, Fort Riley, Kansas. From there, he successfully completed numerous command and staff assignments at Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Fort Lewis, Washington; Fort Benning, Georgia; and Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

LTG Ferriter's first Joint Staff assignment was as Deputy Director for Operations and Plans before he became Executive Assistant to the Commander of the United States Joint Forces Command. In June 2004, he was called to duty as Assistant Division Commander of Operations of the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He completed a combat tour in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia with the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment; two tours in Iraq as Deputy Commanding General (Operations), Multi-National Corps, Iraq; and one tour as Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training), United States Forces—Iraq.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a respected and compassionate leader when LTG Ferriter was appointed Commanding General of the United States Army Infantry Center and the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning. He became a close friend and confidant as he served in my district and when he was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and Commanding General, Installation Management Command, he demonstrated tremendous support for the Congressional Military Family Caucus, which I co-chair with Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). LTG Ferriter and Mrs. Ferriter graciously participated in the CMFC's annual Military Family Summit held at Fort Benning in 2012, demonstrating strong support for our nation's military families.

LTG Ferriter's service to his country is but a small testament of the high caliber of character that he embodies. As the head of a family heavily involved in the military, he recognizes the challenges that face service members, veterans and military families across the nation. Throughout his tenure, he has worked tirelessly to find and implement solutions to these challenges.

LTG Ferriter has certainly excelled in all areas of life, but none of this would be possible without the love and support of his wife, Margie Ferriter. LTG Ferriter's motivation also comes from being a role model to his four children Dr. Meghan Ferriter, MAJ Dan Ferriter, CPT Paddy Ferriter, and former CPT Mary Whitney Whittaker. Mary Whitney and her husband, Garret, are the proud parents of Parker, LTG Ferriter's and Margie's first grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, the nearly 700,000 people in Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, and all Americans, in extending our sin-

cerest appreciation and best wishes to Lieutenant General Michael Ferriter, a "Soldier's Soldier," and Mrs. Ferriter, upon the occasion of his retirement from a stellar career of 35 years in the United States Army.

RECOMMENDATION TO REJECT NORWEGIAN AIR INTERNATIONAL'S APPLICATION FOR A FOREIGN AIR OPERATORS CERTIFICATE

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues concerned about our nation's aviation industry and the delicate balance in our international relations to the pending decision by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx regarding the application of Norwegian Air International for a Foreign Air Operators Certificate.

This important issue was addressed with utmost clarity recently by my friend, former U.S. Congressman Jim Oberstar in the following letter to Secretary Foxx. Jim Oberstar served in the U.S. House from 1975 to 2011 and was for many years Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He is known as the nation's leading expert on Domestic and International Transportation issues. Former Congressman Oberstar urges Secretary Foxx to reject the Norwegian Air International Application.

APRIL 28, 2014.

Hon. ANTHONY FOXX,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation,
New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I have watched with great interest the public debate over the application of Norwegian Air International (NAI) for a foreign air operator's certificate from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). As a former chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, it is my strongly held view that the approval of NAI's application would run contrary to the U.S.-EU Air Transport Agreement and the labor article embodied in the agreement, and contrary to the best interests of U. S. commercial aviation. I respectfully urge you to reject NAI's application.

During my 36 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives on the committee of jurisdiction over international aviation trade issues, I witnessed dramatic changes in the U.S. and global airline industries. Beginning with deregulation in 1978 and continuing through the modern era of mergers, code sharing, anti-trust-immunized alliances, and expansive Open Skies agreements, much of the airline industry today is globally interconnected; U.S. airlines and their employees are directly impacted by the actions of foreign competitors more than ever before. During my tenure of watchfulness over the U.S. aviation industry, I sought to ensure that liberalization was pursued in bilateral agreements which assured a balance of benefits with our international trade partners, protecting the integrity, safety, and competitiveness of the U.S. aviation system.

In the early 1990s, the U.S. government began negotiating bilateral Air Transport, or Open Skies agreements that were intended to open aviation markets, promote competition and tourism, create jobs and increase consumer choice for international travel. These Open Skies agreements are qualitatively different from other trade agreements which deal with services in that they

are almost exclusively bilateral. As such, they reflect a balance of benefits for the U.S. and our trade partner, often with in-country and beyond operating rights, and they are overseen by the Departments of State, Transportation, and Justice, rather than the United States Trade Representative. Given the complexity and size of the U.S. aviation market—which accounts for over half of the world's aviation marketplace—retention of this model is necessary to ensure that the exchange in air traffic rights is done in a way that promotes strong safety, labor and working condition standards, while also ensuring an equitable competitive environment for U.S. airlines. Critical to achieving this goal has long been the continued enforcement of U.S. foreign ownership and control and cabotage laws, along with strong U.S. DOT and DOJ regulatory oversight.

The negotiation of the U.S.-EU Open Skies agreement, which began in the middle of the last decade, presented many unique challenges. While the European Union is an economic and political union of 28 member states, each of these states has retained its respective governmental aviation regulatory authority. Therefore, rather than dealing with a single aviation regulatory body and one set of labor and social laws as we had with previous agreements, we were dealing with multiple aviation regulatory authorities and sets of labor and social laws. While there are base standards for safety and labor laws, the individual nation-state laws still differ widely.

Given the unique nature of negotiating with the EU, many of my colleagues and I were concerned about proposed changes in regulatory structure that would allow any EU airline to operate from any point in the EU to any point in the U.S. and to establish subsidiaries in other EU states. Despite this “European status” for operating and corporate rights, there was no EU-wide law that governed key labor-management relations aspects of these airlines. Instead, these aspects—such as selection of bargaining representatives and contract negotiations—were, and continue to be, subject to the national labor laws of the respective European countries.

During the negotiations, EU representatives expressed concern that such an arrangement could lead to “forum shopping” where European airlines would seek to operate out of countries with less robust labor and social laws. This could allow airlines to seek the lowest common denominator in terms of labor and regulatory standards thereby lowering their own operating costs but driving down standards throughout the EU. In other words, the EU was concerned that new airlines could be launched using a NAI-like business model.

This concern led negotiators to include in the agreement Article 17 bis (“Social Dimension”), which states that “the opportunities created by the Agreement are not intended to undermine labour standards or the labour-related rights and principles contained in the Parties’ respective laws.” It further states that “the principles in paragraph 1 shall guide the Parties as they implement the Agreement.” The fact that there was no equivalent to Article 17 bis in any of the previous Open Skies agreements with EU member states is a direct acknowledgement of the challenges posed by the regulatory and legal arrangement within the EU.

Article 17 bis was a critical factor in the “Agreement”. I applauded its inclusion as an important and necessary step in protecting against the use of market-opening aviation trade agreements to lower labor standards throughout the transatlantic aviation market: the largest aviation trade market in the world.

Today, in light of NAI's application for a foreign air operator's certificate, as well as the plethora of public comments that the DOT has received on this application, I believe that the inclusion of Article 17 bis and the concerns that led to its inclusion were particularly prescient.

Mr. Secretary, you and the DOT International policy staff are familiar with the details of NAI's application and business model, but key facts are worth repeating: NAI is a subsidiary of Norwegian Air Shuttle (NAS), a low-cost European carrier based out of Norway. When Norway became a signatory of the U.S.-EU Open Skies Agreement in 2011, NAS was afforded the same access to air traffic rights under that agreement as other EU carriers. Rather than expand its operations with its existing corporate structure, its workforce and collective bargaining agreements, NAS created NAI and proceeded to register its long-haul aircraft in Ireland and obtain an Irish Air Operator's Certificate—effectively becoming an Irish airline despite the fact that it has no announced plans to operate in Ireland.

This move allowed NAS to expand its long-haul operations through NAI, but also to escape Norway's social laws and to evade existing collective bargaining agreements with its Norwegian pilots and flight attendants. For example, NAI's pilots are based in Thailand and employed under individual employment contracts that are covered by the laws of Singapore. These pilots are then contracted to NAI. The individual employment contracts prevent collective bargaining, and allow NAI to drastically reduce labor costs and gain an unfair competitive advantage over U.S. and European carriers who currently operate in the transatlantic market. The workforce arrangement for flight attendants is still evolving, but what I have learned is that NAI is hiring and basing its cabin crewmembers outside of its home country in what is clearly a plan to secure substandard wages and working conditions and to blatantly evade its collective bargaining obligations in Norway. NAI is pursuing, quite simply, what in maritime law is called a “Flag of Convenience” strategy.

NAI has not denied that it registered in Ireland to avoid the application of Norwegian labor laws to its crews. Other economic justifications presented for selecting Ireland over other possible places to incorporate, the validity of which also have been effectively rebutted by several opponents, appear to be intended to distract from this central and undisputed motivation. The company is thus taking advantage of the opportunities provided by the U.S.-EU Open Skies Agreement in order to lower its own labor costs and undercut the competition, the very scenario that EU negotiators feared when Article 17 bis was included in the U.S.-EU agreement.

I believe that the evidence and arguments submitted in the public docket provide the Department with ample justification to deny the application.

During my years of service on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, conducting vigorous oversight of international aviation trade, I learned that liberalization and market expansion could provide numerous benefits to consumers, open business opportunities for U.S. carriers and create jobs. But I also observed that effective market expansion required the thoughtful and careful approach of balancing reduced trade barriers with the assurance of fair competition and the public interest. We understand the strategic and economic significance of the U.S. airline industry to our nation's well-being, and further understand the unique challenges inherent in implementing the expansive and complicated U.S.-

EU Open Skies Agreement in a productive and responsible manner.

With this background, I believe that this is an important inflection point for how we as a nation project and secure America's role in the global aviation marketplace. The negotiators for both sides in the U.S.-EU Open Skies Agreement negotiations understood the risks and adverse consequences that irresponsible liberalization could pose to the airline industries and workforces on both sides of the Atlantic. They resisted deliberate efforts to dismantle the U.S. ownership and control and cabotage laws, and they included, for the first time ever, a labor article in the final agreement. In doing so, they made an unmistakable statement that the terms of competition must not be set by those who would seek to gain an unfair advantage at the expense of quality jobs and high labor standards.

The Department should implement the Agreement in the spirit of Article 17 bis and concern for both fair competition and balanced trade benefits. Were NAI to be allowed to operate as proposed, the dynamic of transatlantic aviation competition will be changed for the worse, creating a situation where Flags of Convenience become the norm, not the exception.

I urge you to reject the NAT application, and thereby uphold the spirit and intent of the U.S.-EU Open Skies Agreement and Article 17 bis. Thank you for your consideration of my views on this vital international aviation policy issue.

Sincerely,

JIM OBERSTAR, M.C.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,447,321,527,551.15. We've added \$6,820,444,478,638.07 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING CARMEN VELASQUEZ OF CHICAGO FOR HER LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO THE UNDERSERVED LATINO COMMUNITY IN CHICAGO

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a dear friend of mine, Carmen Velasquez of Chicago as she retires from her position of executive director at Alivio Medical Center, for her incredible dedication to the medical community and the underserved Latino community of Chicago.

Carmen devoted her life to the care of others in her community, advocating for health, education, civil rights, and equitable health access for all in Chicago. As founder of the

Alivio Medical Center, a bicultural nonprofit health center and extremely respected advocacy organization, she has dedicated over 25 years to expanding the reach of health care to low-income residents of Chicago. Because of Carmen's determination and perseverance, regardless of income, insurance, or ethnicity, over 20,000 individuals have received the best quality care in the greater Chicago community in over 6 clinics with plans for two new health clinic sites this year.

Coming from a family of hardworking Mexican immigrants, she became a social worker, community organizer, and bilingual education specialist after earning degrees from both Loyola University Chicago and the University of the Americas in Puebla, Mexico. As a member of Chicago's Board of Education, she saw firsthand the disparities in both education and health for Chicago's neglected Latino population. In 1988 Carmen found herself in a muffler shop parking lot, marking the beginning of her campaign to raise \$2.1 million for the construction of her first of many health clinics. One year later, Carmen's passion manifested in the first Alivio Medical Center and she has been serving the otherwise unrepresented and overlooked community since.

Carmen has been recognized on numerous occasions for her renowned work, including recent recognitions at halftime by the Chicago Bears and the National Football League's Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award, the MALDEF Lifetime Achievement Award and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leadership Award. Illinois Governor Pat Quinn has honored her as the Latino Heritage Month "Trailblazer of the Day."

It is an understatement to say that Carmen Velasquez is a true champion for Chicago's Latino community. Her undying fervor, commitment, and care for giving back to the low-income and at risk groups have had profound effects on the health and wellbeing of Chicago. On behalf of all who have benefited from her initiative and the entire medical community, I'd like to thank and congratulate Carmen for her lifelong dedication to others and wish her well in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, April 30, 2014, I missed four votes as I was returning home to Arkansas to continue my work in dealing with the aftermath of the devastating storm that hit my district over the weekend, including a scheduled tour of the affected areas in Mayflower and Vilonia with the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, who subsequently postponed his visit.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 184, "no" on rollcall vote No. 185, "no" on rollcall vote No. 186, and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 187, for final passage of H.R. 4486, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 181, I was unable to be in town for votes due to a personal matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

MORTON AND ALYCE SPECTOR

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Morton and Alyce Spector who are being honored at the 2014 Susquehanna Tzedakah Society Dinner for their devotion to bettering the Jewish community of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. Spector have committed their lives to improving the community for their friends and neighbors. Mrs. Spector, a former teacher and executive director of the National Kidney Foundation of Central PA, and Mr. Spector, a founder of D&H Distributors and current co-owner of Design Kitchens and Appliances, have worked with dozens of boards and organizations across the Harrisburg region and are known by all for their "can do" attitude and willingness to lend a hand whenever it's needed. The Spectors credit their parents as their role models, instilling in them the importance of charitable efforts from an early age. Today, they themselves have become role models and are credited with raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Jewish community.

Mr. Speaker, tonight as the Harrisburg community honors the Spectors at the 2014 Susquehanna Tzedakah Society Dinner, I join in thanking them for their outstanding commitment to bettering the Jewish community, and I commend them and their families for their hard work and dedication.

HONORING RICHARD DAVID KANN MELANOMA FOUNDATION

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation of Palm Beach County, Florida. The foundation will recognize Melanoma Awareness Day on May 5, an important opportunity to raise awareness of skin cancer prevention and treatment.

Malignant melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. In fact, one American dies from Melanoma every fifty minutes. In Florida, residents are especially vulnerable to excessive exposure to the ultraviolet radiation of the sun. Unfortunately, our sunny state has the second highest incidence of the cancer in the country.

That is why it is critical that Floridians, and all Americans, take steps to reduce their likelihood of developing melanoma. These include

avoiding peak sunlight hours when the sun's rays are most intense, seeking shade, applying sun block with an SPF of at least 30–50+ every two hours, and wearing protective clothing such as long-sleeved pants and sunglasses.

In honor of the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation, I am proud recognize Melanoma Awareness Day. I would also like to thank them for their tireless work in preventing and detecting skin cancer and wish them the best as they continue this daunting but important endeavor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 182, I was predisposed at the time.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 183, I was unable to make votes due to a personal conflict.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Lupus Awareness Month. Each May, we recognize lupus as the cruel, mysterious autoimmune disease from which an estimated 1.5 million Americans suffer.

Lupus comes in many shapes and sizes and does not discriminate against only one part of the body. The chronic disease can affect nearly any part of the body including the skin, lungs, heart, joints, kidneys, and brain. Lupus is often misdiagnosed several times over several months before an accurate diagnosis can be made. This is because lupus is known as the "great imitator," mimicking many other illnesses and no single test can diagnose a patient.

Treatment for lupus can be very expensive because of its multi-faceted nature. Annually, lupus costs our nation about \$31.4 billion. The annual cost for treatment for an individual with lupus is an estimated \$20,000 and for an individual with lupus nephritis, kidney inflammation caused by lupus, could be as high as \$62,000 per year.

Lupus is far more common in women and in men, particularly among African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Americans. The cause for lupus' prevalence in minorities is unknown and extensive research is

necessary. Without additional research dollars, scientists searching for causes and treatments will inevitably be delayed.

This May, we must promote lupus awareness. Nearly three-fourths of Americans aged

18 to 34 have never heard of lupus and those who fall in that age bracket are at the highest risk. We must build awareness for this chronic condition and simultaneously work to increase funding for research to improve the diagnosis

of this disease that disproportionately affects minorities and women in the prime of their lives. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lupus Awareness Month.